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## **Netter's Neurology**

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# Nice, Netter <sup>1</sup>, Nicest Neurology

Netter's Neurology is a carefully edited book covering the major topics in clinical Neurology. Now, in its second edition, it continues the tradition of Frank Netter's Nervous System Atlas. This atlas, like many other works by Netter, was centered on his beautiful medical illustrations to create a unique kind of visual imagery helping to understand complex topics in medicine. H. Royden Jones, Jr. , the principal editor of Netter's Neurology, consulted Netter on how to illustrate clinical Neurology. In the current edition Jones and his co-editors, Jayashri Srinivasan, Gregory J. Allam and Richard A. Baker, use original Netter drawings and many more illustrations by the medical artists Carlos Machado, John Craig, James A. Perkins and Anita Impagliazzo to deliver a broad overview of modern Neurology. On 749 pages as well as via online access the book covers neurological evaluation, headache, movement disorders, neuroimmunology, cerebrovascular disorders, neurooncology, infectious diseases of the nervous system, spinal cord disorders, trauma, peripheral and muscular neurology as well as a concise overview on psychiatry. Taking the section on spinal cord disorders as an representative example, acute and chronic myelopathies, including rare etiologies such as copper deficiency myelopathy are discussed after a detailed description of spinal neuro-, vascular and skeletal anatomy. The anatomy chapter contains many of Netter's original illustrations that provide great detail allowing the reader to put a separate anatomy atlas aside. Figures not only illustrate anatomy, but also pathophysiology, clinical findings, and therapeutic interventions. Many examples from medical imaging (CT, MRI, angiography) and neuropathology complement the artistic drawings. In the text, „Clinical Vignettes“ tell exemplary patient histories. „Evidence“ sections list and comment few key original publications or reviews that support what has been said in the text. Paragraphs entitled „Future Directions“ provide the authors' opinions on where the field is moving to. The book contains a

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<sup>1</sup> „Netter“ is the German word for „nicer“

comprehensive index. Contributors include 51 authors, mostly practising at Lahey Clinic, Burlington, MA as well as other institutions in the US and internationally.

The book is in competition with many other textbooks on clinical Neurology. It is certainly unique because of its art. Especially visual thinkers will enjoy reading the text and will benefit most from the visualizations. Comprehension of complex neuropathophysiology, e.g. a tumor compressing the spinal cord, neurological symptomatology, e.g. the dystonic posture, and therapeutic interventions, e.g. carotid endarterectomy, are greatly facilitated by the figures. In many cases facts to remember are illustrated using symbolic drawings, e.g. a man holding his head to represent headache. This, of course, does not facilitate understanding the issue but will help in remembering. Many clinical findings, however, require motion pictures to be illustrated. While this is impossible in a printed book, movies could have been provided with the online version. Apart from this shortfall, the online version (the access code to which is given in the book) is very cumbersome to navigate and read. It does not nearly make use of modern media technology.

In summary, Netter's Neurology is a perfect book for the interested medical student or the neurology resident in her/his early career. The neurologist in practice will, however, require more in-depth information that cannot be provided in a single book. In comparison with similar works<sup>2</sup>, text and illustrations are better balanced to optimize comprehension while giving a broad overview of the field. Netter's Neurology can be recommended without hesitation.

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I have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

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<sup>2</sup> e.g., Atlas of Clinical Neurology. Perkin GD, Miller DC, Lane RJM, Patel MC, Hochberg FH. Saunders Elsevier, Philadelphia 2011